



# ***JBVA TODAY!***

*A weekly newsletter from the Jesse Brown VAMC, Chicago, IL*

*May 16, 2005*



Seventeen staff member and two teams comprising another 13 employees were nominated for Federal Employee of the Year honors and attended the Federal Executive Board Awards Ceremony at Soldier Field on May 4. Three of our staff members were each named as one of the top three finalists in their respective categories – **Valerie Carr**, Nutrition & Food Service, nominee for Outstanding Program Support Employee; **Carolyn Hill**, Patient Administration Service, nominee for Outstanding Secretarial & Clerical Employee; and **Duane Machaj**, Pharmacy Service, nominee for Outstanding Professional Employee. Considering that over 600 federal employees in the Chicago area were nominated for these awards, it is especially noteworthy that the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center was so well-represented among the finalists. The medical extends its congratulations to each of our nominees.

## VA Secretary Nicholson to Hold Town Hall Meeting at Wright College to Discuss Issues with Chicago Veterans



VA Secretary R. James Nicholson will meet with Chicago-area veterans at a town hall meeting on Friday, May 20 at 2:45 p.m. in an open forum being hosted by Senators Barack Obama and Richard Durbin.

Due to the large crowd that is anticipated, the town hall will be held at Wilbur Wright College, 4300 N. Narragansett Avenue. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. The town hall will be held in the college's atrium, with audiovisual feeds to the college's cafeteria and theatre for overflow crowds.

All veterans are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Special Emphasis Program to Honor Asian/Pacific American Staff

JBVA will celebrate National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May with a program on Thursday, May 26 at 11:30 a.m. in the JB auditorium. Cultural presentations will include Japanese Drummers and Filipino Dance and Song.

The keynote address will be delivered by Ms. Santosh Kumar, founder and Executive Director for Metropolitan Asian Family Services, a non-profit agency. Ms. Kumar is listed in the 2002 – 2005 editions of the National Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals.

A variety of ethnic refreshments will be served. All employees are encouraged to attend. The program is sponsored by JBVA's Asian American Pacific Islander Program Committee.

## Staff & Veterans Can Join In Memorial Day Parade

Employees and patients at the Jesse Brown VAMC are again invited to participate in the medical center's annual Walk-A-Thon, which is held as part of the City of Chicago's Memorial Day Parade. The largest Memorial Day parade in the country steps off Saturday, May 28 at 12 noon and marches down State Street from Wacker Drive to Van Buren Street. It includes more than 25,000 participants and 250 marching units including military units, high school bands, the JROTC and veteran's groups from across the State of Illinois.

The cost is only \$10, which includes a complimentary Walk-A-Thon t-shirt. Proceeds go to the VA Voluntary Service. T-shirts are expected to be available beginning next week.

Participants can either meet at the parade site or take a shuttle bus leaving the JBVA main campus at 10:30 that morning. The bus will also be used in the parade, so disabled veterans can participate. For information, contact Mohsen Modaressi at ext. 53989 or Ray Leber at ext. 56402.

## “Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work” Day

Over 70 children of staff members at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and the Crown Point Clinic brought their sons and daughters to work on April 21 as part the nationwide program. A full day of activities was planned for the adolescents and many were able to spend part of the day at their parents’ worksites.



A group of students toured the JBVA Radiology Service, led by **Shirley Davis** and **Candice Campbell** (background). The students pictured are (from left, with their parent or guardian’s name boldfaced in brackets): Aarquisha Jackson (**Bonita Byndum-Jackson**), Taylor Bailey (**Velma Phillips**), Amber Blanco and David Medina (**Shirley Medina**), Casimir Simpson (**Carolyn Hill**), Marquan Jones (**Maria Jones**), and Rebeka Reed (**Catherine Walton**).

At the Crown Point Clinic, **Migdalia Rocher** demonstrates to Sara Hawkins (**Marilyn Hoffman**) how the sense of sight affects balance. Watching in the background is (from left) **Brad Gervais**, **Linda Kolarik**, Sean Tuttle (**James Tuttle**), Matthew Carlton (**Catherine Carlton**), Carl Rocher (**Migdalia Rocher**), Aaron Storer (**David Storer**), Nadya and Nahue Harris (**Olivia Harris**) and Luke Miller (**Janice Miller**).



## Attention Clinicians

The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center has a new intranet web-based clinical information application called VistAWeb. It imitates the behavior of CPRS Remote Data, meaning it is used to review remote patient information found in VistA.

VistAWeb is now available on the Tools menu within the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS). For additional information, please call Michael James, CPRS Clinical Coordinator, at extension 56763.

## JBVA to Participate in Veterans Outreach & Information Program for Veterans

Chicago's Navy Pier is expected to attract up to 20,000 veterans and family members on Saturday, July 9 for the "Supermarket of Veterans' Benefits" sponsored by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. There will be no charge for admission to the event.

The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center will be well-represented by staff members offering primary health screenings, including glucose and blood pressure. Dietitians from Nutrition & Food Service will provide nutritional information and body mass index measurements while members of the Mental Health Service Line will offer mental health screenings.

Tables will also be set up to provide information to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and to promote services offered through the Women's Health Program. Members of Patient Administration Service will provide information on eligibility.

The Supermarket of Veterans Benefits is targeted towards the 600,000 veterans living in the Chicago area. Its purpose is to:

- \* Check every veteran's status toward potential compensation, pension and service issues.
- \* Provide information and eligible benefits for veterans and their families during a free, one-day fair set in a "one-stop-shop" festival atmosphere.

Entertainment will also be offered, including a concert by Kool & the Gang.

**Would you like to receive this newsletter every Monday? It is sent automatically to all JBVAMC employees with MS Outlook/Exchange, but anyone with an e-mail address can also subscribe for delivery to their personal computer. Just visit the VISN 12 internet web site at [www.vagreatlakes.org](http://www.vagreatlakes.org) to subscribe. Employees can also access the "VISN 12" link on the JBVAMC web page, click on "Employee Resources" and scroll down to "subscriptions" to register for the newsletter.**



# **“2005 Patient Safety Culture Survey”**

**5/9/05 – 5/23/05**

**How far has Jesse Brown come in 5 yrs?**

**You tell Us!!!**

**Methods for your response:**

**Web:** <https://survey.sirota.com/vapatient> ( 8am 5/9 to 8am 5/24)

**Phone (Interactive Voice Recording): 1-866- 233-8118**

**Paper: See W. Mudd (57070) or Darlene Webb (57406)**

**Employee: Participation is anonymous and strongly encouraged**

**Survey Time: 20-30 minutes**

**Services/Workgroups with 95-100% survey completion will earn “Award Program Points”**

**Sample Questions:**

- **“Our procedures and systems are good at preventing mistakes from happening”**
- **“In this unit, we discuss ways to prevent errors from happening”**
- **“We are actively doing things to improve patient safety”**
- **“Hospital units/areas work well together to provide the best care for patients”**

**Results: Will be available in the Summer 2005**

**Questions: Please contact Bill Mudd at 57070 or Darlene Webb at 57406**

Please Note: Employees have until 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24 to complete this short survey. Your participation is very much appreciated. If you need assistance or are unsure of your service code, please call Bill Mudd at ext. 57070 or Darlene Webb at ext. 57406.